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Letter dated 13 April 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit the attached note verbale dated 1 April 2016 from the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations, forwarding the report on the activities of Operation Sangaris in the Central African Republic from 15 November 2015 to 15 March 2016 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN Ki-moon**

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Annex

Note verbale dated 1 April 2016 from the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations

[Original: French]

Pursuant to paragraph 50 of Security Council resolution 2217 (2015), the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations has the honour to enclose herewith the report on actions undertaken between 15 November 2015 and 15 March 2016 by French forces in support of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic.

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations would be grateful if the United Nations Secretariat would bring this report to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

Enclosure

Operation Sangaris

Support to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic in the discharge of its mandate, from 15 November 2015 to 15 March 2016

1. Basis of support to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

By its resolution 2217 (2015), the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) by one year and authorized the French forces, within the limits of their capacities and areas of deployment, to use all necessary means to provide operational support to elements of MINUSCA.

2. Context of support actions

2.1 Changes in the size of the Sangaris force

The force was composed of approximately 900 troops throughout the reporting period. This format made it possible to provide support to MINUSCA, to ensure security in Bangui and to carry out specific actions in the central corridor as far as Sibut.

2.2 Changes in the area covered by the Sangaris force

The area of action of the force has not changed since the withdrawal from Bambari on 4 August 2015. The force continues to focus on the M'Poko camp and the grounds of the Institut Pasteur in Bangui, and the relay platform in Sibut in the provinces.

3. Generic actions undertaken by the Sangaris force

- The operational actions of France are guided by respect for human rights and international conventions.
  - With regard to prevention, jointly with MINUSCA, the Sangaris force has adopted a deterrent posture based on frequent independent or joint patrols.
  - The Sangaris force and MINUSCA react decisively to human rights violations, intervening as swiftly as possible.
- The joint action of the Sangaris force and MINUSCA has contributed significantly to the overall improvement in the security situation, including in the provinces.

4. Substantive support provided to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

- In accordance with the technical agreement of 3 October 2014, the Sangaris force provides operational and logistical support to MINUSCA.
- A number of French officers have been integrated on an ongoing basis into the general staff of MINUSCA, where they facilitate mutual understanding of the intentions of, and coordination between, the two international forces.
- A Sangaris liaison detachment comprising nine officers, non-commissioned officers and troops has been incorporated into the major MINUSCA bodies.
- The French and MINUSCA force commanders interact regularly in a unified manner with the transitional authorities and the main stakeholders to coordinate their joint actions. The commanders of the Sangaris force, MINUSCA and the European Union Common Security and Defence Policy Military Advisory Mission in the Central African Republic meet each week.
- During the reporting period, the Sangaris force and MINUSCA carried out joint patrols in the sectors where French forces were deployed, mainly Sibut and Bangui.
  - In Bangui, seven joint patrols were conducted with various MINUSCA detachments.
  - In and around Sibut, 22 joint patrols were conducted with the Burundian battalion, on foot and in vehicles.
  - In Bossangoa, three joint patrols were conducted from 26 to 28 December 2015 as part of Operation Sleipnir, which was carried out to determine the nature of the anti-balaka and pro-Bozizé threat in Bossangoa.
  - In Mbrès, a joint patrol was conducted on 4 February 2016 during an operation to reconnoitre the Kabo-Batangafo-Mbrès-Balakété quadrilateral.
  - In Batangafo, four joint patrols were conducted on 14 February 2016 as part of the same operation.
  - Two joint patrols were conducted in Kouango on 12 March 2016 as part of an operation to acquire the expertise and information required for the operational reserve mission and the disengagement of the force.

Lastly, during the two rounds of the presidential election, the Sangaris force deployed an infantry company in each of the two areas, Kaga Bandoro and Bossangoa, that had experienced unrest during the December 2015 constitutional referendum, in support of the local MINUSCA units.

- A joint operation was conducted in Gbabo, to the south of Damara, where a joint checkpoint was established on 11 and 12 January 2016 as part of Operation Walsh 2, which consisted in monitoring main supply road 2 through the checkpoint.

- Since February 2016, the Sangaris force has made a significant effort to increase the proportion of its missions conducted jointly with MINUSCA. A growing number of joint patrols is therefore conducted in Sibut and Bangui.
- The French and United Nations authorities responsible for the air dimension of the operations regularly hold coordination meetings to improve the dialogue related to air safety at the platforms and, through the expertise of the Sangaris force, the day-to-day coordination of air activities.
- In the area of logistics, the Sangaris force carries out maintenance operations on French vehicles lent to African MINUSCA contingents. The number of such vehicles has decreased as a result of the disengagement of the battalion of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the return of those vehicles to the French contingent of the Sangaris force.
- In terms of medical support, the Sangaris force no longer carries out any medical procedures for MINUSCA, which now has complete autonomy in that regard.